(c) Government of India is alert to the possible misuse of the information shared.

Post of UN Secretary General

144. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:
SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India put up Shri Shashi Tharoor for the post of UN Secretary General;

(b) whether Shri Tharoor had to withdraw from the race on account of US veto;

(c) the P-5 countries in particular and other countries in general that were taken into confidence before Shri Tharoor was put up as a candidate for the post of Secretary General of the UN; and

(d) if so, the reasons for this unprecedented debacle?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) All permanent and non-permanent members of the Security Council as well as other countries were approached by the Government through diplomatic channels, seeking support for Shri Shashi Tharoor's candidature. Shri Tharoor visited many of the capitals as well as attended the AU Summit in Banjul. His informal meetings with various regional groups at the United Nations were organized. These efforts continued upto the penultimate round of the straw polls, in all four of which Shri Tharoor came second, close behind Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Minister of Foreign Affairs & Trade of the Republic of Korea. As the Security Council straw polls are conducted by a secret ballot, it can not be definitively determined as to which permanent member cast a 'discourage' ballot against Shri Tharoor in the penultimate round. Therefore, Government of India decided to voluntarily withdraw its candidate in consideration of its consistent view that the next Secretary General should be an Asian with the widest possible acceptability and to help generate a consensus on the selection of an Asian.